

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 11166 200441Z
ACTION EA-12

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HICOM PASS GOV NMI SAIPAN AND STATUS LNO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, ETRD, JA, TQ
SUBJECT: JAPANESE AID POLICY WITH RESPECT TO MICRONESIA

REF: (A) 77 TOKYO 5054, (B) GOV NMI MSG 120254Z JUN 78,
(C) TOKYO 11013

1. IN CONNECTION FORTHCOMING VISIT OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR ADA AND MR. SABLAN, FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS YESTERDAY DESCRIBED CURRENT JAPANESE POSITION ON AID TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS.

2. MINISTRY OFFICIALS SAID THAT IN CURRENT JAPANESE VIEW THE QUESTION OF AID PROJECTS FOR NORTHERN MARIANAS STILL IS DETERMINED BY THREE DEPENDENT-AREA AID CRITERIA MENTIONED IN REF A-VIZ. THE AID MUST BE REQUESTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE RECIPIENT COUNTRY, THE METROPOLITAN COUNTRY MUST APPROVE THE REQUEST, AND THE ENTITY MUST BE IN THE PROCESS OF ATTAINING INDEPENDENCE. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY DESCRIBES JAPANESE PROJECTS OF LAST YEAR FOR FISHERIES AND RICE PRODUCTION ASSISTANCE TO MICRONESIA AS "EXCEPTIONAL."

3. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, AND GIVEN THEIR ONLY RATHER
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GENERAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE PURPOSES OF THE VISIT, THE JAPANESE TELL US THEY WILL NOT BE IN A POSITION TO MAKE ANY IMMEDIATE AID COMMITMENT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANAS, AND FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS ACKNOWLEDGE THAT AT PRESENT THE OUTLOOK DOES NOT APPEAR FAVORABLE FOR FUTURE JAPANESE ASSISTANCE TO THE NORTHERN MARIANAS. THEY WISH TO STRESS NEVERTHELESS THAT THEY ARE BY NO MEANS CLOSING

THE DOOR, THAT THE SUBJECT OF AID TO MICRONESIA HAS BEEN
TAKEN UP AGAIN AND IS UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION WITHIN
THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AS A RESULT OF LAST WEEK'S
ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FORTHCOMING VISIT, AND THAT THE
JAPANESE REMAIN READY TO DISCUSS AID WITH THE VISITORS
IN GENERAL TERMS AND TO OBTAIN A CLEARER IDEA OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANAS' ECONOMIC PROSPECTS AND PROBLEMS.
MANSFIELD

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